

CLAIMS:

1. A skin evaluating method of analyzing a frequency of an input skin image and determining a condition of the skin based on a frequency feature of the skin image obtained by the frequency analysis.

2. The skin evaluating method according to claim 1, wherein a fundamental frequency of the skin image is extracted as the frequency feature by the frequency analysis, and when the fundamental frequency exceeds a predetermined threshold, the condition of the skin is determined as satisfactory.

3. The skin evaluating method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the frequency analysis of the skin image is performed in a direction X and a direction Y, and the fundamental frequencies of the skin image in the direction X and the direction Y are extracted, a ratio of the fundamental frequency in the direction X to the fundamental frequency in the direction Y is calculated, and when the ratio is within a range of a predetermined threshold, the condition of the skin is determined as satisfactory.

4. The skin evaluating method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein second-order linear predictive analysis is used as the frequency analysis.

5. The skin evaluating method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the skin image is input by a fingerprint sensor.

6. A skin evaluating device comprising:

image input means for inputting a skin image;

frequency analyzing means for analyzing a frequency of the

skin image input by the image input means;

feature extracting means for extracting a frequency feature of the skin image obtained by a frequency analysis by the frequency analyzing means; and

determining means for determining a condition of the skin based on the frequency feature extracted by the feature extracting means.

7. The skin evaluating device according to claim 6, wherein the feature extracting means extracts a fundamental frequency of the skin image as the frequency feature,

when the fundamental frequency exceeds a predetermined threshold, the determining means determines that the condition of the skin is satisfactory.

8. The skin evaluating device according to claim 6 or 7, wherein

the frequency analyzing means analyzes the frequencies of the skin image in a direction X and a direction Y,

the feature extracting means extracts the fundamental frequencies in the direction X and the direction Y of the skin image; and further comprising frequency ratio calculating means for calculating a ratio of the fundamental frequency in the direction X to the fundamental frequency in the direction Y extracted by the feature extracting means; and wherein the determining means determines that the condition of the skin is satisfactory when the ratio calculated by the frequency ratio calculating means is within a range of the

predetermined threshold.

9. The skin evaluating device according to any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein the frequency analyzing means uses second-order linear predictive analysis.

10. The skin evaluating device according to any one of claims 6 to 9, wherein the image input means is a fingerprint sensor.